

# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

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## Notes and Comments

**N**ARRATIVE reports covering the work of 1922 are at hand from our twenty-one Agencies—home and foreign. They are too voluminous for these columns, and will appear in the *Annual Report* volume. However, in this issue we give opportunity for our readers to

is a distant view of this mine with the Andes rising high behind. Mr. Penzotti writes:

"The photographs are of a mine in the South of Chile, 'El Teniente,' which belongs to North-Americans and is run by them. It employs about 12,000 men, and produces copper



COPPER AND GOLD MINE "EL TENIENTE"—NIGHT

get a fresh impression of the quantity of the work, the devotion of the workers, and the power of the Word; obtaining some variety by presenting one report in full, confining ourselves to limited sections of another, and particularly emphasizing the workers and the Word in still another.

. . .

To the Rev. Paul Penzotti, Secretary of our La Plata Agency, are we indebted for the two interesting and unusual pictures from Chile in this issue. That on this page is a near and night scene of the copper and gold mine "El Teniente"; while that on the cover

and gold. The management is also North-American, and I am glad to say that we have a special permit from the manager, to visit the mine as often as we desire, in order to sell our books. So far we have had good success. Our man tells me that he usually sells all the Scriptures he has with him. The mine is beautifully situated in the Andes Mountains, and it is a great trip to take. Our limited appropriation does not allow us to visit the place as often as we would like."

. . .

IN memory of her son who died in his country's service in the Great War, a loving



mother has turned his life insurance into a permanent trust fund. The income received by the American Bible Society is to be used in the dissemination of the Scriptures.

THE following clipping has been sent us as an indication of what becomes of pulpit Bibles sometimes. We rejoice in abounding evidence that most pulpit Bibles are worn out in the use for which they were made.

When Herbert L. Bailey, of Putney, Vt., went to read a meter in the attic of the parsonage of the Congregational church, he found a large Columbian Bible, published 100 years ago. It had been presented to the church in 1823 by Dr. Joseph Goodhue, son of Putney's first pastor.

Dr. Wragg, of our Colored Agency, writes: "Sunday night January 14th, Bishop Benjamin Tucker Tanner's eyes closed to all earthly scenes, after having lived some eighty-seven years.

"His funeral was from Union African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, Pa. By his inability, sickness, and death, the colored people lost the service of an eminent, literary character and that of a close religious thinker.

"He had a strong, persistent character in the aggressiveness of self-help and an individual development. This manifestation was evident in the rearing of his children to lives of worth and usefulness to their people and their country.

"Bishop Charles Spencer Smith, whose demise took place at his home in Detroit, Michigan, February 2d, was well known as an orator and a man of brilliant parts. He was one of those moving, restless natures who can never be still and never idle. He took part in any kind of program for the progress of the negro, in church, social, educational, and civic matters.

"He was, at the time of his death, the historiographer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He had just completed his given task, and with a prophetic sense of his final departure made arrangements accordingly.

"Both of these great men were staunch friends of the American Bible Society, and a word of tribute to such men is just and merited."

THIS cheering word comes from Japan:

"While other dealers around us have complained of decreasing business, we have had the pleasure of experiencing continued increase of sales at the Bible House. Not infrequently our sales have amounted to over yen 100 for a

single day; and some days they have been as much as yen 300. Hence every member on the staff has been kept very busy in receiving stock from the printer and handing it out to patrons in various ways. It has been interesting to notice that the harder our assistants have had to work the happier they have been, because of the knowledge that thus Bible readers throughout the country have been increasing in number every day."

NATIONAL borders do not bound the circulation of Scriptures from our foreign Agencies. On February 12th, a postcard was received in the Shanghai office postmarked "Baling" and decorated with Kedah stamps. It read as follows:

I am just at the border between Perak and Kedah, right in the middle of the Malay Peninsula. I arrived here at 6 p. m., and it is now just after dinner, so I think I will drop you a word to tell you that your booklets have traveled far and wide. We are permitted to preach to the state jail at Alor Star, the chief town of Kedah; so the hundred of prisoners will be reading them in their quiet time. Many of these Malay Peninsula towns have had your "silent preachers" stationed there, so pray that it might germinate plentifully.

Tomorrow we shall push on to a town called Betong, on the Siamese border; there we shall plant His Word. I think you and your friends in America will be glad to hear this news.

THROUGH the Mexico Agency a welcome and generous gift of \$250 for the cause of world-wide Bible circulation has been contributed by churches and individuals in Mexico.

OUR Treasurer reports that on the first Monday in April, 523 donations were received by mail from 34 states of the Union. And on the next day, 589 separate donations were received from 38 states. They were from individuals, societies, and churches. It might be added that several hundred additional donations were reported on both of these days through the treasurers of large denominations, churches of which contribute on the budget system and remit through their central denominational treasury.

NOTICE—The one hundred and seventh Annual Meeting of the American Bible Society, for the transaction of business, will be held in New York City, at the Bible House, Astor Place, on Thursday, May 10th, at 11 a. m. Members of the Society, and delegates from Auxiliaries are cordially invited to attend.



# A Year in the Atlantic Agency

By Rev. Frank P. Parkin, D.D., Agency Secretary

**T**HIS Agency was established in 1910, and includes the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. While it is the youngest in the matter of organization of all the Home Agencies, its nucleus is the Pennsylvania Bible Society, which is the oldest Bible society in the United States, organized in 1808, eight years before the American Bible Society came into existence. The three states named above are among the oldest in the Union; but their population contains a very large proportion of the most recent immigrants speaking varied languages, and clinging to un-American ideas.

The great mining, coke, and steel industries employ a virtual army of laborers and more or less skilled workmen. The great strike among the miners and that among the railway operatives during 1922 have not been conducive to a friendly attitude towards Christian truth; and radical doctrines seem to have been disseminated as a propaganda. Some of our colporteurs, who have been in the employ of our Society for a score of years or more, speak of the bitterness and even vindictiveness of many of the foreign nationalities.

## Increased Circulation

Notwithstanding all these adverse circumstances, the marvelous power of the Word of God to win its way over all enemies has been demonstrated over and over again. The total circulation in 1922 amounted to 201,605 volumes of the Scriptures. During 1921 the circulation was 179,563 volumes, making an increase of 22,042. Sixty-four languages were represented in this circulation against 62 in 1921. Six systems for the blind were employed. Since the settlement of the prolonged coal strike, there has been a great material prosperity. Wages have been maintained, and, in many cases, increases have been granted. This, however, has brought with it increased temptations to indulge in the use of intoxicants. The lax administration of the law with reference to the sale of intoxicants has been reflected throughout these three states; but, as we write this report, the outlook for an improvement in this respect has greatly brightened.

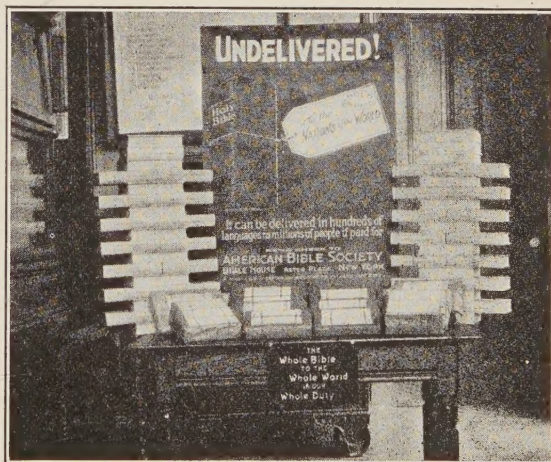
## Immigration at a Low Ebb

As I reported last year, Philadelphia, like all other American ports, has been receiving only a limited number of immigrants. Prior to 1914, representatives of the various Bible societies distributed tens of thousands of copies to those foreigners who came to this port

in such a steady stream. The new immigration law limiting the number of those who are permitted to come from foreign lands has been felt throughout the three states comprising this Agency.

## Other Workers

As supplementing the work of the American Bible Society, I gladly bear witness to the energy and zeal displayed by many local organizations, that have been doing a special work among the industrial classes in our great centers of population. The Pocket Testament League, especially in Philadelphia, has a well-organized force of colporteurs, and, according to their testimony, incalculable good has been accomplished. The Scripture Gift Mission, located also in this great Quaker City, and other organizations supported by the Society



WINDOW EXHIBIT, PHILADELPHIA DEPOSITORY of Friends, have maintained a most commendable activity in the purchase and distribution of God's Word.

## Our Depositories

The headquarters of the Atlantic Agency is located at 701 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. This has been for many years the center of operation of the old Pennsylvania Bible Society. For a time it looked as though this property would have to be abandoned before the steady encroachment of the great building enterprises all about us. But, for the present at least, those overtures have been abandoned, and we are still at the old historic site in the heart of the publishing interests, facing beautiful Washington Square on the south, and the monster Curtis Publishing plant on the east.



In Pittsburgh, the Rev. J. Walker Miller, a Presbyterian clergyman, has his headquarters in the well-located Jenkins Arcade building. This southwestern department, so-called, includes the twelve counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland in the state of Pennsylvania. Under Mr. Miller's faithful direction, we have come to be the great Bible distributing center for that populous portion of the industrial region of Pennsylvania. Mr. Miller has one clerk, and a veteran colporteur, Mr. John Gay, assisting him.

At Scranton, Pa., the Rev. H. G. Harned, who long since passed his eightieth birthday, maintains his proud place as the "Bible Man" in that great center of the anthracite mining interests. Mr. Harned is a Methodist Episcopal preacher connected with the Wyoming Conference, but has devoted the larger part of his ministerial life to the work circulating the Scriptures. His name is a household word among pastors and people in all that region. Mrs. Harned, his consecrated wife, without any extra compensation, is a most helpful and intelligent assistant, both in the local headquarters in Scranton, and in his travels throughout that region.

Wilkes-Barre is another anthracite center where Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Stone are our representatives throughout Luzerne County. The Luzerne County Bible Society was organized 103 years ago and still maintains a living organization. In their last annual report, Mr. and Mrs. Stone say that when this society was organized more than a hundred years ago, the motto then adopted was "A Bible in every home and the kingdom of God in every heart." The people of Wyoming Valley, so largely engaged in the coal mining industry, have this year suffered much in all lines of business, as a result of the miners' strike lasting five months, and the shopmen's strike in July not yet settled at the end of the year. However, the sale of books was not much less than last year, and though money was very hard to collect, the amount this year exceeded that of last year. The amount collected was \$1,182.67.

SOLD		DONATED	
Bibles	280	Bibles	24
Testaments	386	Testaments	249
Portions	2,168	Portions	766
Total sold	2,834	Total donated	1,039
		Total circulated, 3,873	

These faithful toilers say: "We have seen this year most wonderful results of the Word and its teachings on the lives of some most desperate criminals, making them meek and teachable, eager to learn more about God

through his Word; forgetful of self for the good of others, with no malice or hard feeling against those who wronged them; praying for and forgiving their enemies; happy, with the consciousness of sins forgiven; prepared for life or death."

### Colporteurs

While very much can be said in favor of different systems and methods of work in circulating the Holy Scriptures by voluntary agents, through pastors and other agencies, yet the time has not come to abandon the use of colporteurs. They seem absolutely necessary in order to supplement the work of the various depositories. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Stone's labors, we have employed for many years the Rev. A. M. Lewis, a native of Roumania, who is also a regular ordained Presbyterian clergyman. His labors are not confined to any one section, but he travels through the larger part of both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, arousing an interest among pastors and Sunday-school workers in the circulation of the Word.

### Mr. John Gay

Mr. John Gay is the veteran colporteur of the entire Agency. He has just entered on the twenty-third consecutive year of his labors. During most of this time, he has confined his labors to the iron, coke and steel workers of Pittsburgh and vicinity. A native of what is now known as Czechoslovakia, he is more or less conversant with eight or ten languages spoken by these foreign toilers who now nearly monopolize the work once performed by Protestant workmen. His monthly reports contain many most interesting side lights on the people, their habits and customs.

In his January report, when strikes had added to other difficulties, he says, "To offer the Word of God to the people is a joy to me; but in doing this one is often abused by some who are embittered by the industrial conditions at the present time." The attitude of the Roman Catholic Church and the clergy toward the free distribution of the Bible, he refers to very frequently. In most cases the poor, ignorant people show that they have been influenced, and even attempt acts of physical violence against the messenger of the truth. Many of the men from these foreign lands have become thoroughly alienated from the church, as they have come to know it, and have gone to the extreme of infidelity, freely quoting various superficial objections to the Holy Bible that they have heard from strolling socialistic lecturers and advocates of certain bolshevistic and other radical doctrines.



On the other hand Mr. Gay gives many most encouraging facts concerning the change that is taking place among many of these foreigners. Frequently they volunteer to purchase the Bible or selected portions of it, and urge their neighbors to do the same. They show an independence of the priests and occasionally openly defy all attempts on their part to prohibit the reading of the Word of God. "In Greenfield," Mr. Gay wrote in his July report, "I found an intelligent Russian young man, who at first ridiculed the Bible. But I soon convinced him of its authority, and then he listened very respectfully. He greatly desired to have a copy of the New Testament, but had no money to buy it, and would not accept it as a gift. Finally he agreed to trade me a book that he owned for a copy, and promised to read it."

#### Work among the Italians

While God's Word is designed for all people, speaking all languages, and we have distributed it in no less than sixty-four languages during the past year, it is a fact attested by all home missionary workers that the Italians and Russians have shown a peculiar eagerness, in many sections of the country, to obtain a copy of God's Word, since arriving on our shores. During 1922, we employed Mr. Frank Martino, a converted Italian, with headquarters in Elizabeth, N. J. His labors carried him into many towns and cities within a radius of fifty miles or more, where at least one hundred thousand Italians have settled. In Erie, Pa., there are many encouraging evidences of renewed interest in the Word of God among this same interesting people. Lack of funds alone prevents us from employing more colporteurs and making larger donations of Italian Bibles.

#### Individual Effort

Many of our pastors and personal workers among the rank and file of church members have wonderfully supplemented the labors of colporteurs, and have helped to increase the influence of the American Bible Society. The Rev. Henry S. Noon, a pastor in Millersburg, Pa., wrote asking for a copy of the New Testament and Psalms in large type for the use of an aged man who had been converted at the age of eighty. In acknowledging receipt of the book he writes: "Many thanks to you for the New Testament with the Psalms. My good brother here is enjoying it, and has read much of it. I dropped in to see him yesterday, and he insisted that I read to him from it, and I read and then some, and then some more, and he thanked me many times for the book.

I pass his thanks on to you and your good Society." A Christian sheriff in New Jersey, writing for a donation of Bibles for the county jail, and acknowledging the same later, said, "Permit me to thank you in behalf of the people of this county, and to assure you that these Bibles will be greatly appreciated." Similar opportunities exist everywhere.

#### Scriptures for the Blind

The recent generous offers of Scriptures for the blind at greatly reduced rates have made a most favorable impression upon all those who are thus physically afflicted. The unselfish attitude of the American Bible Society is universally acknowledged whenever the facts are known.

#### One-Cent Gospels and Reduced Prices

The long-promised one-cent Gospel of John followed by the announcement that similar editions of the other Gospels would soon appear, has proven to be a splendid advertising card. Editorial references have been numerous and most generous in their praise of the enterprise of the Society. The 53-cent Bible #208 in minion type, and the 60-cent #117, in brevier type, are two of our most popular sellers. Churches and Sunday schools of various denominations are coming to realize that, at these prices and with the quality of paper, text and binding, there can be little if any excuse for having inadequate supply of the Book of books in the hands of Bible students and church worshippers. When the problem is finally solved and a substantially bound and well-printed New Testament for ten cents can be secured, it would seem as though every obstacle had been removed for meeting all legitimate demands for the Word of God for all classes of people.

• •

"WHEN I read the New Testament," says Dora Greenwell, "I feel as if walking in a mountain region, in an atmosphere that transfigures all objects seen through it. I seem to recognize the scenes that surround me; but all is raised and extended; my soul feels that it has attained to a wide emancipation; yet still keeps within it an instinct of familiarity, as if some sudden turn amid these aspects of austere grandeur might bring me within sight of the valley where my earliest years were spent; and through all I have a sense of something which is foreign to the present order of life, foreign to it and yet friendly, as if it belonged to some region towards which man is traveling, but at which he has not yet arrived."—*Central Christian Advocate*.



# Here and There in the Northwest

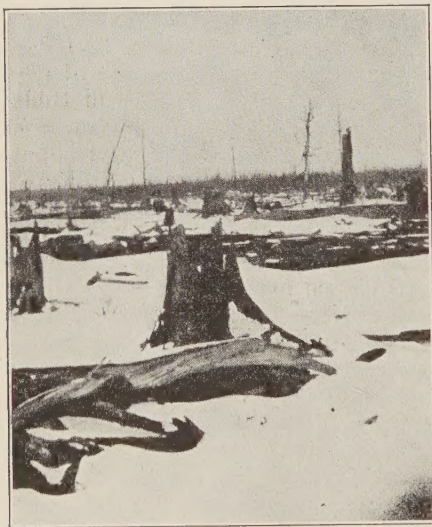
By Rev. S. H. Kirkbride, D.D., Secretary, Northwestern Agency

*The Northwestern Agency, covering over 570,000 square miles, is next to the largest of the Home Agencies; and has a population of over 23,000,000. To reproduce the whole report here would be impracticable. We take a few pictures from but three of the nine states it serves—Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.*

## "The Cut-over Country"

A MISSION worker who is helping the Bible Society to sow the "seed which is the Word of God," tells of conditions which prevail, and are not surprising when one looks at the accompanying picture:

"We are in northern Michigan, where, forty years ago, there were great sawmills and rich lumber camps; but now it is a country of stumps and underbrush. The land is so poor, that the people cannot raise even a bare living.



THE CUT-OVER COUNTRY

Many have to go to the cities to earn their taxes. One minister found a woman so poor she was using cowdung for fuel. There are poor homes around here that have no Bibles at all. New people are coming in, and new homes are being opened, but they are too poor to buy Bibles, and we would like to supply them. We make a specialty of getting the people to read and study the Bible. Our converts of two years ago have *read it through from one to seven times*. For them we will carry on an outline study this coming year.

"We earn money to keep up a car so as to get to the people, most of whom are in the country. One family comes twelve miles to each meeting, and often makes two trips to get their chores done."

That similar conditions prevail in other sections of the great Northwest is indicated by a quotation from another letter: "The cut-over lands of northern Minnesota are a field for Christian service. We are trying to win the people for Christ, and I know no better way than to interest them in Bible study."

## "Too True to Life, That's All"

Such is the comment by the Rev. J. P. Welliver on his picture, which we take pleasure in reproducing. It is a joy to know that there are men of the character and calibre of Mr. Welliver, here and there, known and unknown, sowing the seed throughout our great country. This is no "stage" picture, but shows this indefatigable "sky pilot" dressed in heavy woollens, just starting out over roads deep with snow, and stormfilled trails, with a hundred pound pack of Bibles on his back to be sold and given away among the woodsmen and settlers of the "cut-over" region in northern Minnesota.

## The "Best Compliment"

An incident told by Mr. Welliver calls for both laughter and tears. "In one neighborhood I sold a Bible to a young man, who took it home and began to read it aloud to his mother. She shortly asked him where he got that book, and he told her he got it from me. 'Well, it's just like Welliver,' she replied, 'to write that stuff and send it out here for us to read.' This is perhaps my best compliment in thirty years. But, alas, for the spiritual ignorance the laughable tale betrays."

## Depositories Opened in Duluth and in Detroit

After conferences with the chief pastors of Duluth, and through the hearty co-operation of the secretary of the Duluth Y. M. C. A., a depository has been opened to supply ministers and Christian workers of that city and on the Range. Free space and service by their office force were offered by the Y. M. C. A. through Mr. B. C. Wade, the secretary. Mr. W. L. Smithies, the secretary of the Duluth Council of Churches, which also has its headquarters in the Association building, has taken over-



sight of the depository. The Bible Society publications are shown in a case in the lobby of the Association building and in the office of the Council. Sales of our books and interest in our work have shown marked increase.

Turning from the northwestern section of the Agency to the southeastern at Detroit, we find a valuable work carried on by the Rev. E. W. Jennett, in happy co-operation with the local churches and mission workers. A large bookcase has been placed in the headquarters of the Council of Churches in the downtown

his large case in our reception room, where every person who comes into the office will be able to see it. It shows up wonderfully, and we are calling everybody's attention to it whenever they come in. Rest assured we shall push this Bible work just as earnestly as we know how."

### Not a Peddler

"It must not be thought for a moment that the Bible missionary is merely a peddler of books," says Mr. Jennett of his work. "If that is what he is, then I would not be one. He is as much a missionary as any man who goes to India or China or Africa or anywhere else. He is doing the same work, and frequently amongst the same nationalities, as does the so-called foreign missionary.

### A Good Day

"Today (so my notebook reads) has been a most fruitful day; not in the number of Bibles sold, for the sales have been exceptionally small, but in the opportunities for conversations on spiritual things which have presented themselves. I knocked at the door of one house, and was invited in by a man, who was reclining in a chair, suffering from a broken leg. The offer of a Bible, naturally, opened up conversation on religious things, and when I was leaving, after taking lunch with them, he said, 'You have hit me today in what you have said.' He bought a Bible, and I left him some tracts to read.

"No, I am not interested," said an Italian at one house. 'I am sorry for that,' I replied, 'for every man ought to be interested in that which has to do with his life beyond this life.' 'I don't want to be interested,' he said; 'why will you fellows try to make us interested in these things, when we don't want to be?'

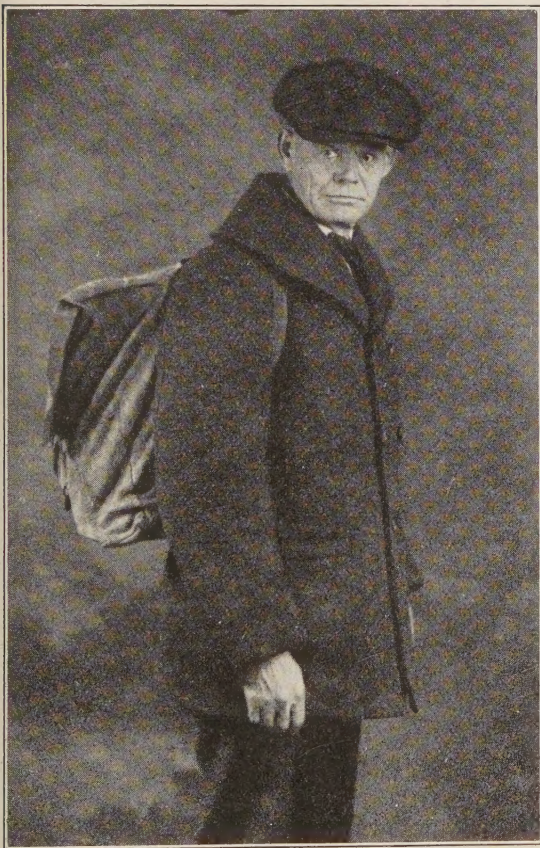
"No, we haven't a Bible,' said one woman. 'We used to attend church regularly; but children came, and husband's health failed, and we got out of going to church, and we have had nothing but trouble ever since. Guess we are having hard times on that account.' She bought a Bible.

"I called at a luxuriously furnished house, where they owned an expensive limousine, but had no Bible. Sold them one."

### Kalamazoo and Battle Creek

From the report of another valued worker, the Rev. Neil Love, we take references to his work in the above-named cities:

"I have sold more Bibles in Kalamazoo, Michigan, since coming into this section, seven years ago, than I could have believed it possible to do in that time. They were 'broadcasted'



REV. J. P. WELLIVER, WITH HIS PACK OF BIBLES

section of the city, and a good stock of Scriptures installed in it. The Rev. M. C. Pearson, executive secretary of the Detroit Council of Churches, writes:

"We are advertising the American Bible Society in this office very extensively both before the ministers' association and through our printed bulletins, which are going out every week. There is great interest being awakened in it. Many of our churches which are doing work with foreign groups are going to avail themselves of the Bibles in foreign languages which Mr. Jennett has here. We have placed



everywhere, in the homes of the wealthy and the hovels of the poor, in the jails and in the hospitals, or wherever man had need. I supplied them in various languages, to the Chinaman in his laundry and to the Greek in his candy store or restaurant. The Italian 'section hand' on the railroad, the Bulgarian, the Pole, and the Hungarian in the shop, had his life influenced by the Bible supplied him; and the stalwart Hollander, whose love for the Bible made him what he is, was always a ready purchaser.

"In Battle Creek I had a somewhat similar experience, although not visiting that place as often. The shops and factories there are always keeping it a city of manual workers; and in no place can there be found a class of workers more interested in the Scriptures. The lady who has charge of the girls in one of the good factories asked me more than once to

One such volunteer, writing from northern Wisconsin, says: "Where I am teaching, there are many foreigners—Finns, Poles, Hungarians and Scandinavians. I have a great burden for these districts where the people have no gospel privileges. I think of a family of nine children, which would like to have services, and of another, which lives twelve miles from here and have no religious services. I would like to devote all my time to Bible work, but cannot; so I can only visit around and give out the Word of God and tracts."

#### **The Bible the Only Book Available to Assyrians**

The Rev. Haidow Ablahat, pastor of the Carter Memorial Assyrian Presbyterian Church of Chicago, gives this striking testimony: "I wish to write just a few lines and express my sincere gratitude to the American Bible Society for its great work, in giving out to all



THE MISSES DANA AND HANSEN USE THIS "SHACK" AS THEIR HOME WHILE THEY WORK IN THE CUTOVER COUNTRY IN MINNESOTA IN THE CIRCULATION OF THE WORD AND THE TEACHING OF ITS MESSAGE. THE SHACK WAS ABANDONED BY LUMBER JACKS WHEN THE VIRGIN TIMBER WAS CUT AND THE BIG MILLS PUSHED FURTHER INTO THE WOODS.

come on some particular day, and she would give me an opportunity to show my Bibles to the girls. I sold quite a number of books on such occasions. I generally call at the sanitarium in the summer time. The patients, who are out on the grounds surrounding the building, quite frequently buy from me, and sometimes give me information of the American Bible Society's work in the sections they are from."

#### **Volunteers**

Valuable and large work is being done by volunteers. It is impossible for the Bible Society to adequately cover its fields with paid colporteurs. It must, and fortunately does, have the aid of zealous people who love the Bible and who devote some time in distributing Scriptures, not for pay, but for the love of Christ and their fellows.

nations the Word of God in their own tongue. If there is any people who appreciate the work of the Society, it is the Syriac-speaking Assyrians. They are a people of one book, that is, 'The Bible.' You can get no book in modern Syriac in the United States, except a hymn book published in New York City by an Assyrian, and the Bible and portions thereof published by the American Bible Society. There are hundreds of our people in this country who cannot read the English or any other language except the Syriac, and if they should have any time and desire to spend in reading and meditation, they are limited to 'The Book.' In any Assyrian home one enters will be found a New Testament or a Bible. If there were no American Bible Society, we would be a people without any book. Thank God for the American Bible Society!"



# Ten Years with the American Bible Society

By G. A. Perkins, Colporteur

**T**ODAY, March 7, 1923, I have been ten years with the American Bible Society. My steps are not so sprightly as then. I am a little nervous. I am living now closer to God than then; a few more wrinkles, but time alone is the pen. I am more determined now than then that I will not be idle or waste any time.

I have worked on the border of Mexico, crossed the deserts in Arizona, been among the Black Hills of South Dakota, worked among the lumberjacks of north Minnesota, and during those ten years on the firing line, I have made the distribution of 21,000 Bibles, 40,000 Testaments, 71,000 Gospels, or a total of 132,000 volumes, in 32 different languages, and in 12 different states. Thousands of Bibleless homes have been furnished with the Word of God.

For the lack of money I have sometimes slept in old store buildings, in churches and church belfries. Sometimes I have had to live on fifteen-cent meals, and oftentimes just two meals a day. Sometimes I have not had enough food to nourish the natural body. I have walked many times until I would stagger.

About five years ago I told one of the officials of the American Bible Society that I wanted to go to the hardest place they had, and he said, "That is New Orleans." I said, "I want to go."—"They will set the dogs on you down there."—I said again, "I want to

go." About two years later I came.

In order that a sub-depository might be established in this city, where there is more Bible destitution than in any city in the United States, my salary was reduced to \$75 per month. I pay \$32 of this for house rent. That leaves me \$43 to support my wife and myself, and sometimes I pay a part of this out to help others. Some people seem to think I am running a relief station here.

No one knows what a Bible missionary is up against, unless they have been on the firing line themselves. Last week a man cursed me and called me vulgar names when I gave him a Gospel.

God pity the poor colporteur that is out on the firing line, doing the *actual work*, and not getting enough pay to sustain the natural body.

But oh, how thankful I ought to be, that God has used me to distribute his Word. I am ashamed of myself for complaining—the flesh is weak. God forgive me!

I have now spent one year and seven months in New Orleans. There has been a great change here regarding the Bible. It is the largest city in the South and second largest seaport in the United States. The people of New Orleans have been good to me. May the Lord permit the work in this great city to continue and grow in giving the "Light" to those who are in utter darkness.

God bless the American Bible Society!

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## The Home Agency Secretaries' Conference

**T**HE American Bible Society functions within the United States through nine Home Agencies under the direction of the Central Headquarters in the Bible House in New York City. Each of these Agencies is under the immediate supervision of an area Secretary, and contains from one to nine states. Once each year, the Secretaries come together for conference and consultation. This year the conference was held from March first to eighth, inclusive.

At this conference all of the Agency Secretaries were present; also representatives from the Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, State Bible Societies and Buffalo and Erie County Society. For these six days the men devoted themselves untiringly to an intensive

study of the various problems and phases of the great task to which they all have devoted themselves.

Publication methods and plans, stocks of Scriptures for the needs of the field as compared with annual outputs during the years that are past, stocks needed for depositories, etc., were discussed. A careful study of the stock of Scriptures carried by the Society led to a resolution for the elimination of a number that have been in little demand; and larger editions were urged for those most generally used. It is a great step towards standardization, and lessening the price for which the Bibles can be sold.

Special editions, annotated editions, "self-pronouncing" editions, illustrated editions, etc.,



were discussed. But there was no dissenting opinion from the wisdom of the constitutional provision which restricts the Society to the publishing of the Authorized or the American Standard Revised versions, without notes or comments. However, provision was made for the inclusion of a few photographs, in colors, of actual scenes in Bible lands, in special editions of the Scriptures in English, and more largely in foreign languages.

Detailed presentation was made of the operations of the ways and means department in the matter of gifts from individuals, annuity gifts, gifts from churches, publicity, Bible Sunday, new literature and lantern slide lectures. These were discussed by the members of the conference, and valuable suggestions resulted.

All RECORD readers would be inspired and encouraged by the reports from the various areas. Incidents and problems varied as widely as do the areas represented. Coincident with the enlarged program of home missionary work by the different church organizations, and the large increase in the number of home missionary workers throughout the country, there is a strong conviction that there should be a more general co-operation with these in the circulation of the Word. But these workers do not by any means supplant the time-honored work of the colporteur. These church workers make good Scripture distributors, in that they (1) are now numerous enough to cover almost the entire country; and (2) in that they are anxious for a wide circulation of the Scriptures.

On the other hand, they cannot supplant the colporteur, for they (1) are not trained book distributors; (2) they cannot properly supply, or take care of, stock; (3) their efforts are largely confined to prospective accessions to their own church organizations.

The discussion brought out the need for Bible depositories in each city of any size or importance, where the Christian workers shall know that missionary editions of the Scriptures can be secured. This is an obligation that lies upon the Society and upon the church.

There is an increasingly widespread desire on the part of Christian people for the circulation of the Scriptures. A gentleman in Colorado has been financing a successful movement to make a present of a Bible to every Sunday-school scholar in his state who commits to memory certain passages of the Scriptures. He is now extending his offer to children in other states, and it is being extensively accepted. It was unanimously urged that, in so far as possible, all such independent or sporadic

movements be linked up with the general Society, as thereby the largest success of Bible work could be secured.

A "Committee of One Hundred," although the actual number has far outgrown that limitation, has volunteered a day's service each year in Buffalo, N. Y., for intensive house-to-house canvass of definite sections of their great city, and placing a copy of Scriptures in each home. This committee is composed of representative women from all church denominations in the city, and is a blessing to those to whom it ministers, to the churches from whence they come, and to the members themselves. Largely influenced by the success of this unique experiment, plans are being conceived for a somewhat similar canvass of some large city, as a demonstration as to what can really be done when "the people have a mind to work."

The needs of the field were presented in striking contrast to the amount of work being done under the limitation of the means at hand. Plans and suggestions were offered. In view of the present existing plan of operating through the Home Agencies' machinery, it was shown that—

1. The American Bible Society's membership is absolutely free from any religious test;
2. The American Bible Society is not a denominational or church institution;
3. The American Bible Society is not a commercial institution;
4. The Home Agency system of operation is the cheapest and most efficient method of distribution the Society has yet devised or known;
5. The Home Agency system rests on contractual agreements with other parties in seven out of the nine Home Agencies;
6. While perplexing difficulties are now encountered, in any other system that could be substituted difficulties would naturally arise;
7. The whole system is yet on trial: the Society is not unalterably committed to this plan to the exclusion of others.

Great is the task confronting the Society in bringing the Scriptures to the vast and varied populations throughout the country. The immigrant populations which are pouring into the country, many of them never having even heard of the Word, must be supplied with the Book. The industrial groups, mine workers, factory men and women, seasonal migrant groups, mountaineers, range dwellers and isolated settlers, were each considered in turn, and difficulties of approach considered and studied. It is a task that compels the



most careful scrutiny and attention, and might well stagger the stoutest heart. These days, with the Secretaries all together, were full of inspirations as the men told of victories in their respective fields, and planned for careful and intensive team work to meet their opportunities and responsibilities.. After these days

of prayer and study, the Secretaries have returned to their respective fields, not to meet perhaps till another year. They were strengthened and refreshed by the fellowship enjoyed, by the respite from their common tasks, by the fresh insight into problems and by the new outlook upon the goal to be reached.

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## Workers and the Word in Japan

By Rev. Karl E. Arxell, Secretary in Charge, Japan Agency

**A**MONG our present colporteurs we have a woman, Mrs. Suzuki, who has been used of God in a very peculiar way. [We print one of several incidents reported—Ed.]

### "I Am Greatly Indebted"

In a testimony meeting at a certain mission in Tokyo, after Mrs. Suzuki had spoken, a woman arose and spoke something as follows: "As a rule I never allowed agents and peddlers who came to my door to talk to me, much less sell me anything. But, one day, a woman came around with books. Her bearing impressed me, and her manner of speech, which was very different from anything I ever had heard before. As she talked, I, of my own accord, decided to take two copies of her books, which happened to be the Gospels of Luke and John. I began to read them at once. When I read the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth chapters of Luke, I was deeply moved; and one evening, as I came down this street, I dropped in here to hear what Christian preachers really talk about. To make the story short, as my heart was already prepared, it did not take long to capture me for Christ. I did not know who the woman was that put those two booklets in my hands, until tonight when I listened to the one who has just spoken. She was the messenger who brought me the gospel which put me in touch with Jesus Christ my Saviour. I am greatly indebted to you, dear friend and sister, for what has happened to me."

### How the Bible Got into the Chief Priest's House

The chief priest's wife was sick. The doctor recommended a certain massage. He furthermore told her that he knew of a man who was an expert on such treatments, and all agreed that he should be called. This man was Mr. Tanaami, who formerly was our regular colporteur, and is now maintaining himself as a masseur and doing Christian work at Nikko and vicinity. He carries Bibles wherever he goes, and is known as "the Jesus man."

Now the doctor had told Tanaami that he should not tell the woman that he was a Christian. But, to the surprise and annoyance of the doctor, as soon as Tanaami came into the room of the sick woman he told her of his Christian faith, and asked her permission to pray to God before giving his treatment, saying, "I always pray before I undertake anything." She consented, and he prayed. When he said "Amen," the doctor, the nurse, and the servant of the house all repeated it, thus revealing that they also were Christians. This, and the peculiar tenderness shown her by all of them, very deeply impressed the sick woman. While giving his treatment, Tanaami told her his experience and of what God said in his Word. This intensified her interest exceedingly, and she wondered how she might obtain the book he had mentioned. He had his pack of Bibles with him, and was glad to show them to her. This whole occurrence seemed so wonderful to her that she not only bought a large-sized Bible for her own use, but also a Testament for the wife of the priest next in rank to her husband, and a Testament for her son.

The happy issue of the above was that both this woman and her son became ardent lovers of the Bible; and, although they still do not dare to confess that they believe in Christ, owing to the position the head of the family holds in town, they are quietly recommending and pushing the Bible into the homes of the many priests who are connected with the famous shrines in Nikko. It has commenced to be the talk of the whole place that "the Jesus man" goes in and out at will among the homes of the priests, and wonder is expressed that this is allowed.

The son, who is now in school in Tokyo, has written to Tanaami that, as it is known he is the son of the chief priest in Nikko, he reads the Bible in secret; but he assures him that he believes in it with all his heart. He asked Tanaami to be patient and work quietly, so as not to excite his father and cause him to do



rash things, thereby adding to the list of the many and awful sins he has already committed.

#### Father, Son and Mother

An old man, nigh on eighty years of age, had become greatly interested in a leather-covered book. He read it assiduously, and more and more realized what helpful advice it contained. All this he had done in secret; but the Holy Spirit had worked on his heart, and at last he found it impossible to continue hiding from those round about him the knowledge he had gained.

The man's son had been in military service, and while away had found Christ. What more natural then that on the lad's return the father, whose interest in Christianity had been awakened by the reading of the leather-covered book, should turn to the son, who had experimental knowledge of the truth of that book? It followed, therefore, that the son had the joy of finishing the good work which had been so wondrously commenced by the Bible.

The mother of the lad had also been greatly impressed as to the reality of the Christian religion, because of the great change which had taken place in a working man known to her. He had recently gotten converted at the Salvation Army, and from a lazy, good-for-nothing he was transformed into an industrious, reliable man. Ultimately, then, the very beautiful fact is revealed of an entirely Christian household—the son having found Christ when away from home, the father having digged in the treasure store of Holy Writ and discovered the Pearl of Greatest Price, and the mother having been led to salvation by the influence of one of God's many "living epistles."

#### With "Outstretched Hands"

Of the hundreds of letters that we receive at the Bible House month by month the following is a sample: "Some years ago, on the train, my father bought from a kind foreign woman a copy of the Gospel of Mark of the New Testament, published in 1914. At the close of this book there was an announcement to the effect that for nine *sen*, including postage a copy of the New Testament would be sent to anyone who desired to know more about the Christian Way of Salvation. Presumably the price has changed by this time. Kindly let me know how much I shall send you now to obtain that book.

"With a human heart bewildered by the problem of salvation and the true faith, I turn with outstretched hands and yearning to the teachings of Jesus Christ, hoping to be saved."

## BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS . . . . . *The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, MAY, 1923

### AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

THE eleventh stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and seventh year was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York, on Thursday, March 1, 1923, at 3:30 o'clock p. m., President Cutting in the chair.

In addition to members of the Board and the officers of the Society there were present, in connection with the Annual Home Agency Secretaries' Conference: Revds. J. P. Wragg, S. H. Kirkbride, M. B. Porter, A. Wesley Mell, Arthur F. Ragatz, Frank Marston, Frank P. Parkin, E. T. Garland, of the Bible Society of Maine, Rev. James H. Hyatt, of the Maryland Bible Society, Albert Roscoe, of the Massachusetts Bible Society, Rev. T. H. Orme, of the Buffalo and Erie County Bible Society.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the reading from the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Luke, 16-21 verses, by the Rev. James H. Hyatt, D.D., and the offering of prayer by the Rev. Arthur F. Ragatz, D.D.

The minutes of the tenth stated meeting of the Board of Managers were approved.

Mr. D. Sherman Taber and Mr. Alexander S. Lyman, having accepted election as Managers and being present, were welcomed by the President and members of the Board.

The minutes of the standing committees of the Board were presented and approved.

The Recording Secretary reported the acceptance of election as Vice-Presidents by the Hon. Thomas R. Marshall, LL.D., of Indianapolis, Ind.; Thomas H. Somerville, LL.D., of Oxford, Miss.; Albert J. Beveridge, LL.D., of Indianapolis, Ind.; Wade H. Ellis, LL.D., of Washington, D. C.; William Jay Shieffelin, Ph.D., of New York; and William Lyon Phelps, Litt.D., of New Haven, Conn.

The following consignments to the Society's Foreign Agencies during February, 1923, were reported: Brazil, 5,291 volumes, valued at \$2,098.48; Caribbean, 14 volumes, valued at \$30.10; Mexico, 3,305 volumes, valued at \$687.51; Philippines, 1 volume, valued at 72¢; Upper Andes, 50 volumes, valued at \$65.90; West Indies, 4,922 volumes, valued at \$1,595.11; total, 13,583 volumes, valued at \$4,447.82.

The issues from the Bible House during February, 1923, were 420,116 volumes.



# SAFE INVESTMENTS

Roger W. Babson

Statistician and Financial Adviser

*On this page, regularly used for financial items, with Mr. Babson's permission we are glad to print his striking advice on Safe Investments. There is much food for thought in it.*

**M**ANY who do not get along well materially owe their misfortune to lack of these religious qualities—faith, industry, courage, imagination, and thrift. When all people are endued with the spirit of service, both poverty and wealth will merge into one happy group.

The greatest undeveloped resource is faith; the greatest unused power is prayer. The business men of the nation are waiting for the Church to open to them these resources. Those who visualize the latent spiritual forces of the community will perform a greater service than those who develop the material forces, however great their value may be.

Statistics suggest that the next revival of religion will be an economic revival whereby the people of to-day will give their property as our forefathers gave their lives. Labor needs to wake up, and the rich need to give up.

It no longer may be necessary to go to the stake or even to prison for Jesus' sake, but the time is fast approaching when it will be necessary for us to give up a great deal more than we now do in order to show our real interest in religion and its work.

All of us could easily give ten per cent of our income; many could give fifty per cent, and some of us ninety per cent and still have left more than the average person.

Every successful business man knows that his success is very largely due to the fact that he was obliged to struggle in his early days. This struggle is what developed him and made him the power he now is. Yet many of these men are doing all they can to make it unnecessary for their children to struggle. Furthermore, they are surrounding them with temptations which may be their downfall. Many of us, if we had at heart only the welfare of our children, would not necessarily retire from business and stop making money, but we certainly would stop accumulating more money for our families. From now on our profits would go to benevolence work for the uplift of mankind. In so doing, we not only would be making enduring investments, but would be removing from our children something which surely will be a source of great temptation, and which possibly might lead to their downfall.

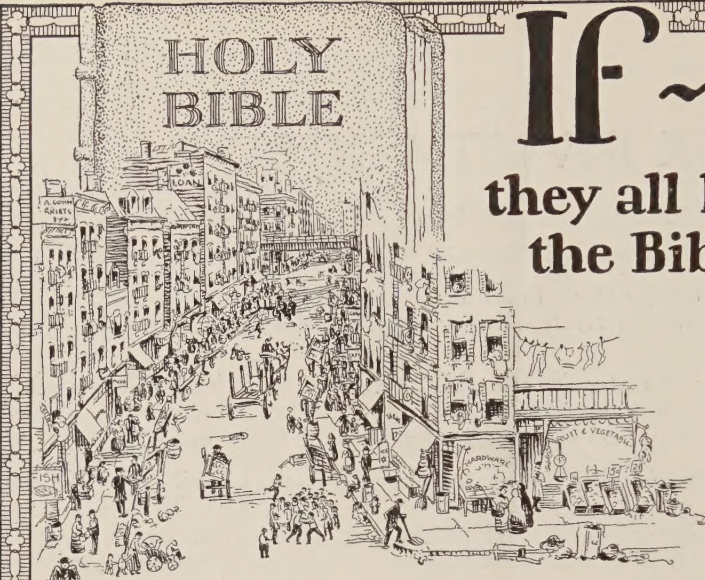
The men or women who already have all the money they need are not the only ones who should give. Few, indeed, are too poor to give something to what they believe is God's work. I have known a great many "tithers," but I have yet to find one who felt he had lost anything by dedicating a definite part of his income to God. To everyone—rich and poor—the statement of the Wise Man regarding "bread on the water" has a very real application in this matter.

Let's think for a moment what would happen if every church member in the United States should actually do as the Bible suggests, and set aside one-tenth of his income for God. It would furnish sufficient money in a few years to teach every living soul the principles of righteousness.

The man who leaves pure charity out of his life misses a tremendous lot of fun.

Let us think for a moment what would happen if every church member in the United States should actually do as the Bible suggests, and set aside one-tenth of his income for God. There are about forty million members in our Christian churches, with about forty billion dollars total income. Calculate the tremendous power summed up in one-tenth of that amount—*four billion dollars!* Spent wisely and honestly, such a sum would establish all the additional schools necessary to fit our young men and women for a religious life. It would operate all the hospitals and training schools needed to treat all those who must go through life with physical handicaps. It would furnish sufficient money in a few years' time to teach every living soul the principles of righteousness.





# If ~


## they all had the Bible!

Lives of men and women would be transformed—homes would be happier—the breeding places of vice and crime would disappear—injustice, oppression and greed would cease—Christ would be enthroned and social justice prevail—our great centers would be cities beautiful wherein dwelleth righteousness.

In our great cosmopolitan cities the American Bible Society is distributing the scriptures in more than 80 languages the value of which no man can measure.

We invite you to share in this program by immediate gift or legacy. The annuity plan gives you an opportunity of helping generously without hardship because you receive an income for life on your benevolent gift. *Write for booklet*

American Bible Society, Bible House  
New York



### *Advertisement No. 1*

The above advertisement is one of a new series of six which will appear from time to time on the back cover of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD and in various religious publications. You will be interested in this series which will be available later in booklet form.